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(c) an AV conference manager [for] configured to manag[ing]e a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one [of the] participant[s], captured at a workstation, is reproduced at [the] another workstation[of another of the participants and], [(d) a participant locator that] wherein the system is configured to associate[s] a participant with only each workstation at which the participant logs in and [thereby enables the routing of] to route a videoconference call, for that participant, to [the] each workstation at which that participant is logged in.

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10. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, [further comprising:

(a) signal format conversion means for converting signals of one format to another format, and] wherein the teleconferencing system can support different signal format standards.

Cancel claim 11.

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12. (Once Amended) The method of claim [11] ¹¹~~28~~, further comprising the steps of:

(a) tracking the audio and video capabilities associated with each workstation; and
(b) processing a call, from a second to the first participant, based on which audio and video capabilities are associated with the first participant.

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14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

(a) interfacing between the AV conference manager and an external AV reproduction device.

15. (Once Amended) The method of claim [11] ¹¹~~28~~, further comprising the step of:

(a) converting signals of one format to another format to enable the [teleconferencing] video conference system to support different signal format standards.

16. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising a data path along which digital data signals can be transmitted between a plurality of the workstation.

17. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, wherein the AV path connects the workstation of a first [of the] participant[s] at a first location to the workstation of [a second of the] another participant[s] at a second location via a third location, the system further comprising:

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- (a) at least first and second codecs, respectively at the first and second locations, configured to compress AV signals and decompress compressed AV signals; and
 - (b) an AV signal switch at the third location, operable to route compressed AV signals, destined for another without the compressed signals being decompressed at the third location.

18. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim [17] 16, [further comprising:

- (a) a data conferencing manager for managing] wherein the system is configured to manage a data conference, during which images based on shared data [is] are displayed interactively on the workstation monitors of a plurality of [the] participants [and wherein a videoconference, during which the video image and spoken audio of one of the participants are reproduced at the workstation of another of the participants is managed by utilizing a data network operating system and a data network protocol of the first network].

21. (Once Amended) The method of claim [11] ¹¹~~25~~, wherein the AV path connects the workstation of [a] the first [of the] participant[s] at a first location [of] to the workstation of [a second of the] another participant[s] at a second location via a third location, the method further comprising the steps of:

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- (a) compressing the AV signals;
 - (b) receiving the compressed AV signals at the third location; and
 - (c) routing the received compressed AV signals to the second location with decompressing them at the third location.

22. (Once Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

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- (a) [managing a data conference to] shar[e]ing data among a plurality of [the] participants; and
 - (b) interactively displaying images based on the shared data on the monitors of the participants' workstations;
 - (c) managing a videoconference to reproduce the video images and spoken audio of one of the participants at the workstation of another of the participants by utilizing a data network operating system and data network protocol of the first network.

✓
Add the following new claims:

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25. A method of conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants using workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) associating first and second participants only with each workstation logged into by a first and a second participant;
- (b) initiating a call from the first to the second participant;
- (c) routing the initiated call to each and only each workstation at which the second participant is logged in;
- (d) capturing participant video images and audio of the first and second participants;
- (e) carrying AV signals representing the captured video images and spoken audio of the participants along an AV path among workstations associated with the first and second participants; and
- (f) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of the first participant is reproduced at the workstation of the second participant.

26. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, the teleconferencing system comprising:

- (a) a plurality of workstations having a visual image display monitor and associated participant audio and video capture and reproduction capabilities;
- (b) an AV path for carrying AV signals representing video images and spoken audio of the participants among the workstations; and
- (c) an AV conference manager configured to manage a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one participant, captured at a workstation, are reproduced at another workstation;

wherein the system is configured to manage a data conference, during which shared data is displayed interactively on the visual display monitor of at least two participants; and configured to associate a participant with each workstation at which the participant logs in and to route a videoconference call for that participant, to each workstation at which that participant is logged in.

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~~27~~. The teleconferencing system of claim 26, further comprising:

- (a) a plurality of switches operable to establish a teleconference between any two participants out of a total pool of at least 100 participants.

²⁸
~~28~~. The teleconferencing system of claim 27, wherein at least two of the switches are geographically dispersed and the AV path is defined by at least one Wide Area Network.

²⁹
~~29~~. The teleconferencing system of claim 26, further comprising:

- (a) an AV signal switcher for receiving and routing the AV signals to an intended location;
- (b) at least one AV reproduction device with associated audio and/or video reproduction capabilities; and
- (c) a directory of each AV reproduction device and its associated capabilities and wherein the AV conference manager processes a request for a reproduction service, generated at a workstation, by addressing the directory of reproduction devices, selecting an appropriate AV

reproduction device and causing the selected device to provide the requested reproduction service to the workstation.

30. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the AV conference manager selects the AV reproduction device according to a predetermined order of available reproduction capabilities.

31. The teleconferencing system of claim 30, further comprising:

(a) at least one interface for interfacing between the AV conference manager and an external AV reproduction device.

32. The teleconferencing system of claim 31, further comprising:

E7 (a) a user interface for enabling the first participant to select a capability associated with the external AV reproduction device to cause an AV reproduction service to be provided to the workstation associated with the first participant.

33. The teleconferencing system of claim 26, wherein the teleconferencing system can support different signal format standards.

34. The teleconferencing system of claim 26, further comprising a data path along which digital data signals can be transmitted between a plurality of the workstation.

35. The teleconferencing system of claim 34, wherein the system is configured to manage the videoconference by communications over the data path.

36. The teleconferencing system of claim 26, wherein the AV path connects the workstation of a first participant at a first location to the workstation of another participant at a second location via a third location, the system further comprising:

- (a) at least first and second codecs, respectively at the first and second locations, configured to compress AV signals and decompress compressed AV signals; and
- (b) an AV signal switch at the third location, operable to route compressed AV signals, destined for another without the compressed signals being decompressed at the third location.

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~~37~~. The teleconferencing system of claim 35, wherein video images are reproduced at the workstations at least 20 frames per second.

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~~38~~. The teleconferencing system of claim 37, wherein video images are reproduced at the workstations at least 30 frames per second.

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~~39~~. A method of conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants using workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) associating first and second participants, respectively, with each workstation logged into by a first and a second participant;
- (b) initiating a call from the first to the second participant;
- (c) routing the initiated call to each and only each workstation at which the second participant is logged in;
- (d) capturing participant video images and audio of the first and second participants;
- (e) carrying AV signals representing the captured video images and spoken audio of the participants along an AV path among workstations associated with the first and second participants;
- (f) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of the first participant is reproduced at the workstation of the second participant; and
- (g) sharing data, along a data path, among workstations associated with the first and second participants;

(h) managing a data conference, during which images based on the shared data are displayed interactively on at least one workstation monitor associated with each of the first and second participants.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) tracking the audio and video capabilities associated with each workstation; and
- (b) processing a call, from a second to the first participant, based on which audio and video capabilities are associated with the first participant.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one AV reproduction device with associated capabilities of reproducing at least audio or video signals at a workstation;
- (b) defining at least one directory of AV reproduction devices and each devices associated capabilities;
- (c) addressing the directory of devices to select an appropriate AV reproduction device; and
- (d) causing the selected device to provide the requested reproduction service to the workstation.

42. The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:

- (a) interfacing between the AV conference manager and an external AV reproduction device.

43. The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of:

- (a) converting signals of one format to another format to enable the video conference to support different signal format standards.



File 1.26
⁴⁴~~49~~. The method of claim ³⁹~~39~~, wherein the AV path connects the workstation of the first participant at a first location to the workstation of another participant at a second location via a third location, the method further comprising the steps of:

- (a) compressing the AV signals;
- (b) receiving the compressed AV signals at the third location; and
- (c) routing the received compressed AV signals to the second location with decompressing them at the third location.

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⁴⁵~~50~~. The method of claim ⁴⁴~~49~~, further comprising the step of:
(a) controlling the videoconference by communications transmitted over the data path.

⁴⁶~~51~~. The method of claim ⁴⁵~~50~~, wherein video images are reproduced at the workstations at least 20 frames per second.

⁴⁷~~55~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~51~~, wherein video images are reproduced at the workstations at least 30 frames per second.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, certain claims have been amended, one cancelled and others added. The amendments to the claims have been made to improve the format of the claims and not necessarily to overcome the prior art rejections by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments presented below.

Rejection of Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 as follows: